

News Journal

WWW.COTTONWOODHEIGHTS.UTAH.GOV

February 2009



J. Scott Bracken - District 2

Last month Councilman Antczak discussed the financial soundness of our city. This stability, brought on by past fiscal prudence, brings with it many benefits, including better services and public works for city residents. Following are projects and programs that Cottonwood Heights is involved in ---- many because of our strong financial position.

First and foremost, the police and firefighters are sufficiently staffed and trained and can respond quickly when needed. Our streets are being plowed after each snow storm, and all other basic services are being provided.

The new, more visible and readable blue street signs have now been installed throughout the city. This was completed a few years ahead of the state mandate that all street signs meet new, higher reflectivity specifications; AND, they look very nice!

The city has completed \$150,000

Financial Prudence Enhances Services

in sidewalk repairs through its 50/50 program with residents. This program helps homeowners keep the sidewalk in front of their home in good repair. It's a very popular program with a waiting list. In 2008, 5000 trip hazards were repaired under a contract with a concrete shaving/grinding company to cut raised sidewalks so they no longer pose a trip threat and are safer and more useable for pedestrians, especially those who have trouble walking or are in wheelchairs or even on skates.

A new segment of sidewalk along 2300 East, between the car wash and the child care center, was constructed in response to parent's concerns, expressed at a city council meeting, about their children's safety while walking to and from Bella Vista Elementary School. The current economic climate resulted in multiple bids, competitive pricing, and almost immediate installation. Two years ago, it would have been very hard to get any contractor to look at such a "small" project; it would have cost almost twice as much and it would have been months

before it got started.

An East/West traffic signal timing study is almost complete for Ft. Union Blvd. Anyone traveling Ft. Union Blvd. knows the signals need some coordination. The study will reveal what needs to happen to improve traffic flow, and will provide options that can be budgeted in the future.

New video detection systems are being installed at many intersections. These are more reliable than the older under pavement type, and will be programmed to keep wait times at intersections to a minimum.

Additional traffic control trailers are being used to alert motorists to the speed they're traveling through neighborhoods. Eleven bus stops have seen improvements that include benches, concrete pads, planter boxes, and garbage cans to make it more appealing as a waiting place for bus passengers.

A new street sweeper, purchased in cooperation with Holladay & Taylorsville, will double the

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CITY INFORMATION: City Council Members

MAYOR

Kelvyn H. Cullimore, Jr.

kcullimore@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 1 - Gordon M. Thomas

gthomas@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 2 - J. Scott Bracken

sbracken@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 3 - Don J. Antczak

dantczak@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 4 - Bruce T. Jones

bjones@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY MANAGER -

Liane Stillman

lstillman@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY OFFICES:

1265 E. Fort Union Blvd. #250,
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84047

phone (801) 944-7000

fax (801) 944-7005

CALL DIRECT:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| City Manager | 944-7010 |
| Deputy City Manager | 944-7011 |
| City Planning | 944-7065 |
| Recorder | 944-7021 |
| Treasurer | 944-7075 |
| Finance Director | 944-7077 |
| Code Enforcement | 944-7095 |
| Customer Service | 944-7000 |
| Public Information | 944-7015 |
| Police Administration | 944-7100 |
| City Events | 944-7001 |

To hear the agenda for the next city council meeting call: 944-7003

For the planning commission agenda call 944-7004

For details about the agendas, check our web site:

www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

NUMBERS TO KNOW:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Emergency: | 911 |
| Dispatch: | 840-4000 |
| Fire Authority: | 743-7100 |
| Animal Control: | 944-7095 |
| Justice Court: | 273-9731 |

Writer/Editor - Robert Warnick

bwarnick@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

Designer - Jeimi Woffinden

Chief's Corner



protection of residents, taking advantage of bulk purchasing opportunities, enhancing mutual aid assistance, and improving the efficient use of resources through training and sharing with one another.

I am a personal advocate of the notion that a government closest to the people best provides for the critical, quality of life issues communities face. Crime is a local responsibility, the accountability for which resides with the Mayor, Council, and Chief of Police. By listening to constituents, we better understand that problem-solving comes from neighborhood interaction with police and the

creation of local strategic plans and goals for our community.

The VPA agreement was signed by our Mayor and City Council on January 13, 2009 with wholehearted recommendation from the police department and unanimous vote of the council. The alliance creates a larger pool for consolidated functions and programs such as purchasing power for equipment, uniforms, and supplies. This purchasing power creates opportunities for cost reduction in all areas of the law enforcement services budget.

I do not personally support

continued Chief's Corner



Chief Robby Russo

Primarily through the efforts of each city's chief of police, Cottonwood Heights and sister cities: Draper, Midvale, Salt Lake City, Sandy, South Jordan, and West Valley have formed the Valley Police Alliance (VPA). (The additional self-providing cities in the county that have not yet joined the alliance are all considering taking that action.) This law enforcement collective will cooperate in furthering the

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number of sweeps the city gets each year, AND at lower cost than our previous contract. This not only keeps our streets looking better, but also keeps junk and gunk out of the storm water drain system - saving thousands of dollars in maintenance costs as well.

The city's emergency preparedness initiative has purchased and is stocking a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trailer to help respond to disasters and other emergency situations in the city. An EOC (Emergency Operations Center) has also been set-up at city hall. This was valuable and necessary recently when communications at the 911 center were interrupted for a short time.

Phases I and II of the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail are virtually complete. The trail starts at Knudsen's corner under I-215, runs east behind Market Street Grill, then follows the creek to the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. It is a \$2.2 million project being paid by grants the city has acquired through hard work with various agencies and private enterprises.

In a time when most cities are forced to scrimp and cut services, Cottonwood Heights' mix of revenue sources, past financial cautiousness, and current fiscal vigilance is allowing the city to buffer the impact of a sagging economy and keep basic services in tact.

"RELAY FOR LIFE" KICKOFF CONCERT

The American Cancer Society's Cottonwood Heights' Relay for Life has become an annual fundraising event for our city. The actual Relay for Life event is held in June of each year, but this year it will kickoff with a concert on February 18th at the Butler Middle School. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on that day, the nationally recognized A Capella Choir, VOCALOCITY, will perform along with Hypnotist KERRY SHARP, a family favorite.

The purpose for the kickoff concert is to generate interest in the upcoming Relay for Life and to allow participants the opportunity to get a head start on fund raising and team forming in preparation for the June 19 and 20 event.

In 2008, Twenty-five teams participated and collectively raised over \$31,000. Attendance at the kickoff in February for a \$5 donation will give this year's event a head start on fund raising, bring people

together to help form teams, and will enable attendees to enjoy some great music and fun entertainment.

For those who would like to be more involved in assisting the Cancer Society with its annual fund raising activities, a volunteer position for a Sponsorship Chair is available. This person will contact past sponsors, develop new sponsors, and assist sponsors with their involvement at the Relay in June. Anyone interested should contact Melissa Lowry at 801-953-5609.



Volunteer For Fun With The City

With a spirit of optimism and an attempt to lighten the dreary days we've been having, let's think a few moments about the wonders and pleasure of spring and summer. With April only two short months away (well one short month and one long month), we can contemplate Easter and all it represents as grass turns green and plants and flowers break through the earth's crust to reach for the sunlight that gives them life.

With Easter, the city begins a plethora of city sponsored events and activities for our fun and enjoyment: Easter Egg Hunts, Relay for Life, Butlerville Days on July 24th, and on into summer and fall with various activities here and in neighboring communities.

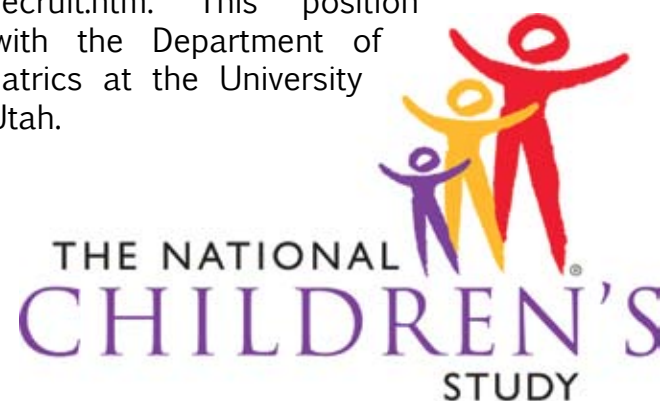
None of these fun events happen without lots of volunteer help from you, residents of Cottonwood Heights. Your first opportunity to volunteer is for the Easter Egg Hunts scheduled for April 10 and 11 this year. **Volunteer by going to www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov and completing a volunteer application or email Susannah Hutchins, City Events Coordinator, at shutchins@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov.**



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH CHILDREN'S STUDY

As was announced in a previous issue of the NEWS JOURNAL, a section of Cottonwood Heights has been selected to participate in a National Children's Study. This study will follow children from pre-birth into their 20's and collect data regarding their health, growth, and other socio-economic factors. To date, the study has prepared address lists on over 7,000 households in Salt Lake County. These lists will now be used for mailing advance letters to all households in the study segment informing that the study staff will be coming to their doors.

An employment opportunity is available for a Household Interviewer who is knowledgeable about Cottonwood Heights. This position will be filled before spring, when the interviewers will head into the field following a period of training. This is a potential career move as the study will continue for over 20 years with on-going contact being made by the Household Interviewers. Detailed information, including pay range, experience requirements, education, etc. is available at: <http://www.ped.med.utah.edu/ncs/ncsrecruit.htm>. This position is with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Utah.





HELP IS AVAILABLE TO DO YOUR TAXES

None of us wants to think about it but it is wise to not “blow it off,” tax time, that is. There is help available for those who need it and qualify by having low or moderate income. Whether you fall in this category depends on family size and filing status in addition to income level.

A visit to www.utahtaxhelp.org or a call to 2-1-1 will enable you to make an appointment to meet with someone that can let you know if you are eligible for this free help through the VITA program. They can also let you know if you are eligible for Federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) which can refund up to \$4800 to you, even if you don’t owe any taxes.

VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. It identifies a group of volunteers who understand the requirements and have

been trained to assist you with those intimidating tax forms. They can also provide you with financial education and information about resources available in your community.

This program has been in existence since the mid-1970s and last year more than 5000 households in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties received free tax preparation services from VITA volunteers. Through their efforts, over \$2 million returned to the community through the EITC program.

Additional volunteers are also needed for this program to continue its great work. If that is of interest to you, check out: www.utahtaxvolunteer.org or call 2-1-1.

WHY ARE PETS LICENSED? A PET LICENSE IS A TICKET HOME!

Those who are frustrated by having to license a pet (dog, cat, or ferret) should think for a moment about why it’s required and how it benefits you and your pet. Virtually every day pets are lost due to owner negligence or, by just “running away.” None of us plans on either eventuality, but it happens.

Cottonwood Heights Ordinance Enforcement Officers are understanding, sympathetic pet lovers. They know how hard it is to lose a pet; yet, they cannot help return your pet if they don’t know it’s yours. The only way for them to know it’s yours is if you license it (microchips are highly recommended). It costs only \$5 to license your sterilized pet (for senior citizens it’s \$15, but that’s for the life of the pet). Fees are somewhat higher for pets not sterilized; but either way, the fee is minimal and it takes but a few minutes to provide a ticket home for your lost pet.

It is also essential that you bring proof that your dog, cat, or ferret has been vaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian prior to a license being issued. This is another benefit to your pet and your family as it protects all from the deadly possibilities of that dread disease.

Cottonwood Heights has only been in the pet licensing business for a year. Those of you who licensed your pet with the county in 2007, or possibly with Cottonwood Heights in 2008 recently received a

yellow post card informing you of the new licensing procedure. The city is appreciative of the many that have made the trek to city hall and bought a license (nearly 600 as of 1/28/09). All should do so by the end of the same month in which they bought a license the previous year. Pet licensing is not a profit center for the city. License fees barely pay for the time it takes a city employee to process and issue the tag. However, there is a late fee for those who don’t re-license on time. *(Pet owners can read of options for licensing, and the requirements for acquiring a license; and can print an application form by going to: www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov.)*

For those of you who received the yellow card, if it confused you in any way, we apologize; and we promise to communicate more clearly in the future. Meanwhile, you can license your pet by coming to city hall, 1265 East Fort Union, Ste. 250 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on business days. **Buy your pet a ticket home today!**



FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

All City Council business meetings are held in the council chambers, 1265 East Fort Union Blvd., Ste. 300. The work meetings are held in the conference room at the same address but in Ste. 250. The February meeting schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 3rd**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
- **Tuesday, Feb. 10th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting (*reconvenes following business meeting*)
7 p.m. Business Meeting
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
- **Tuesday, Feb. 24th**
6 p.m. Work Meeting (*reconvenes following business meeting*)
7 p.m. Business Meeting

Chief’s Corner Cont’d

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creating a larger organization wherein the identity of my city is immersed in a bureaucracy. The VPA supports this same concept and allows us to maintain our individual identity as we cooperate in cost savings, shared services, training, communications, crime lab, and SWAT services. There are also on-going discussions about consolidating IT, HR, and recruitment costs.

All law enforcement and, subsequently, our citizens, benefit by identifying and utilizing experts in specific fields such as forensics, training, internal affairs, etc. Collectively, VPA supports sharing best practices in common policies such as high-speed pursuits and K-9 tactics. The VPA provides the network for such cooperation without separating each city’s officers from their communities.



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UTA Fares To Drop April 1

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) recently announced that bus, TRAX, FrontRunner, and Ski Service transit fares will all drop on April 1 to compensate for the fuel surcharges implemented last year when the cost of petroleum skyrocketed.

The result of the planned decrease will be a reduction from \$2.25 to \$2.00 for the adult cash fare and the monthly pass will decrease to \$67.00 from the current \$74.50. Similar reductions will be seen in other fare types.

UTA announced that "...it is fulfilling a commitment to remove the previously mentioned surcharges when the price of fuel dropped...." Additional information on the fares that become effective on April 1, 2009 can be found at <http://www.rideuta.com>.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

By
Susannah Hutchins,
City Events Coordinator



Kevin Craig Cromar

Kevin Craig Cromar is one of Cottonwood Heights' exceptional residents. He graduated from BYU with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's of Business Administration. He also served an LDS mission in Hong Kong.

Kevin's life has been filled with service to his community. He completed two terms in the Utah House of Representatives from 1982-1986 as one of the youngest representatives in state history. There he worked on the Public Education Appropriations Committee and in 1984 was awarded the Utah Education Association's Honor Roll Award as a non-educator who made significant contributions to education in Utah. He has chaired the Cottonwood Heights Historical Committee since 2007, and was recently elected to the new Canyons School District Board of Education, representing Precinct 3.

Much of Kevin's life experience has prepared him for public service. He is retired from the computer industry where he worked for various prestigious organizations for over 30 years. He also served 20 years with the Utah Army National Guard 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion as a Chinese Linguist and a Chief Warrant Officer. His military assignments took him to numerous foreign countries, including Japan and Korea. For four years he taught Project Management as a professor at the top three universities in mainland China.

Kevin was raised in the Holladay area and his family moved to their current Cottonwood Heights' home in 1987. He and his wife, Cathy, have five children, five grandchildren (with two on the way) and (what he affectionately refers to as) "One Great Dog." In his free time, Kevin enjoys reading, hiking, history, and skiing.

We appreciate Kevin's many years of dedicated service and are privileged to have him in our community.

Emergency Communications Tested

Those who read these pages on a regular basis have probably picked up on a theme that appears each month - Emergency Preparedness. Many in the city, including the council and city manager, along with staff members and myriad volunteers, are preparing for the eventuality of an emergency situation requiring us to operate outside our comfort zones in uncharted territory (disasters).

Each month this paper provides you with an Emergency Tip. If followed, these tips are designed to provide you with steps you should take within your own family and home to do all possible for yourself and your loved ones to enhance the probability of surviving a disaster. The hope of those who work at preparing for emergencies, either through employment or hobby, is that all residents of our city will prepare themselves to be able to handle the first 72 hours of any emergency (generally considered the time that will be required for first responders to reach you in the event of a significant disaster, i.e. earthquake).

In the meantime the professionals and volunteers continue to prepare the equipment and rehearse the procedures that will "kick-in" in the event of an extended power outage, severe snowstorm, earthquake, terrorist attack, or other natural or man caused disaster that we hope will never occur. Part of their training includes periodic tests to be sure the equipment is functioning properly and that personnel understand their roles in helping to open up communications, for example.

Such a test occurred on Saturday, January 10, under the direction of Roger Kehr, City Emergency Communications Director. This drill tested five different systems designed to restore communications to the residents of Cottonwood Heights. The test was successful thanks to the efforts of Roger Kehr, Ben Coray, Ed Hansen, Carl Blanda, Mike Mladejovsky, Rex Estes, Bob Fowler, Bob Harbrecht, Suzanne Overby, Loren Smith, Mayor Cullimore, City Manager Stillman, Corporal Heath Lowry, and others whose training and reaction to a mock disaster will help to save lives in the event of an actual emergency.

These volunteer emergency responders operated the equipment, drove to the disaster locations, provided ground and technical support, tested radio systems, maintained security, interfaced with VECC, and performed admirably, on their own time, to be prepared to assist you when that time comes.

You can thank these professional volunteers by doing all you can to prepare to the point that you won't need their help.

THINK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS!!!

